

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 PC-10

DRC-01 OMB-01 /130 W

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O 301627Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4604

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0376

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR ES HO

SUBJ: EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS DISPUTE

REF: STATE 014392; SAN SALVADOR 0315

1. LAST EVENING FONMIN BORGONOVO TOLD ME THAT HE HAD FINAL DRAFT OF PROPOSED GOES REPLY TO OAS COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MESSAGE. HE DESCRIBED REPLY AS MODERATELY PHRASED AND INNOCUOUS IN NATURE SIMPLY INFORMING COMMITTEE THAT GOES DESIRES TO CONTINUE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH HONDURAS AND TO DISCUSS WITH GOH REVISION AND EXTENSION OF THE ACT OF WASHINGTON BUT IS NOT WILLING TO DO EITHER BEFORE APRIL FOR "WELL-KNOWN REASONS." THE REPLY DOES NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE SUGGESTION THAT GOES INFORM HONDURAS OF THE SALVADORAN POINT OF VIEW ON THE BOUNDARY QUESTION. HE FOUND THIS SUGGESTION PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOM.

2. HE REITERATED TO ME PRIVATELY THAT HIS GOVT DOES NOT WISH TO ENTER INTO BILATERAL OPEN TALKS WITH GOH

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ON THEIR DISPUTE DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN HERE. WHILE

THIS MATTER HAS NOT BECOME AN ISSUE IN THE CAMPAIGN
SO FAR, THE GOES IS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT IT, PARTICULARLY
AFTER THE RECENT ROUND OF PRESS DEBATE FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION
OF ATTACKS BY LAWYER JIMENEZ CASTILLO AND RETIRED COL. CASTRO MORAN.
BORGONOVO CONTENDS THAT THIS DEBATE HAS PUT THE GOES INTO
THE UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF HAVING TO EXPLAIN AND DEFEND
BEFORE THE PUBLIC ANY OPEN COMMITMENTS IT MAKES FROM THIS
POINT ON IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH HONDURAS.

3. BORGONOVO SAID THE GOES REPLY WOULD HAVE TO BE CABLED
NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 31 THUS NOT GIVING HIM AN OPPORTUNITY
TO TRY TO CORRINATE THE REPLIES OF BOTH GOVTS BEFORE
TRANSMISSION TO ASSURE THAT EACH WOULD BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE
AND CONDUCIVE TO RENEWAL OF NEGOTIATIONS IN APRIL. HE IS
CONFIDENT THAT THE SALVADORAN REPLY IS NOT LIKELY TO TROUBLE
THE HONDURANS AND HOPES THAT THE HONDURANS WILL BE JUST
AS CONSIDERATE OF THE SALVADORAN SENSITIVITIES IN THEIR
REPLY. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT BORGONOVO LOOKS TO US TO PASS
THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS REPORT TO THE GOH SO THAT IT UNDERSTANDS
THE SALVADORAN POSITION. THIS WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH
OUR INTEREST IN ENHANCING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO
GOVTS.
MOSKOWITZ

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